Current Smarter Balanced Development and STAR Transition Activities

California Common Core Convening

March 8, 2013

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Assessment Development and Administration Division

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
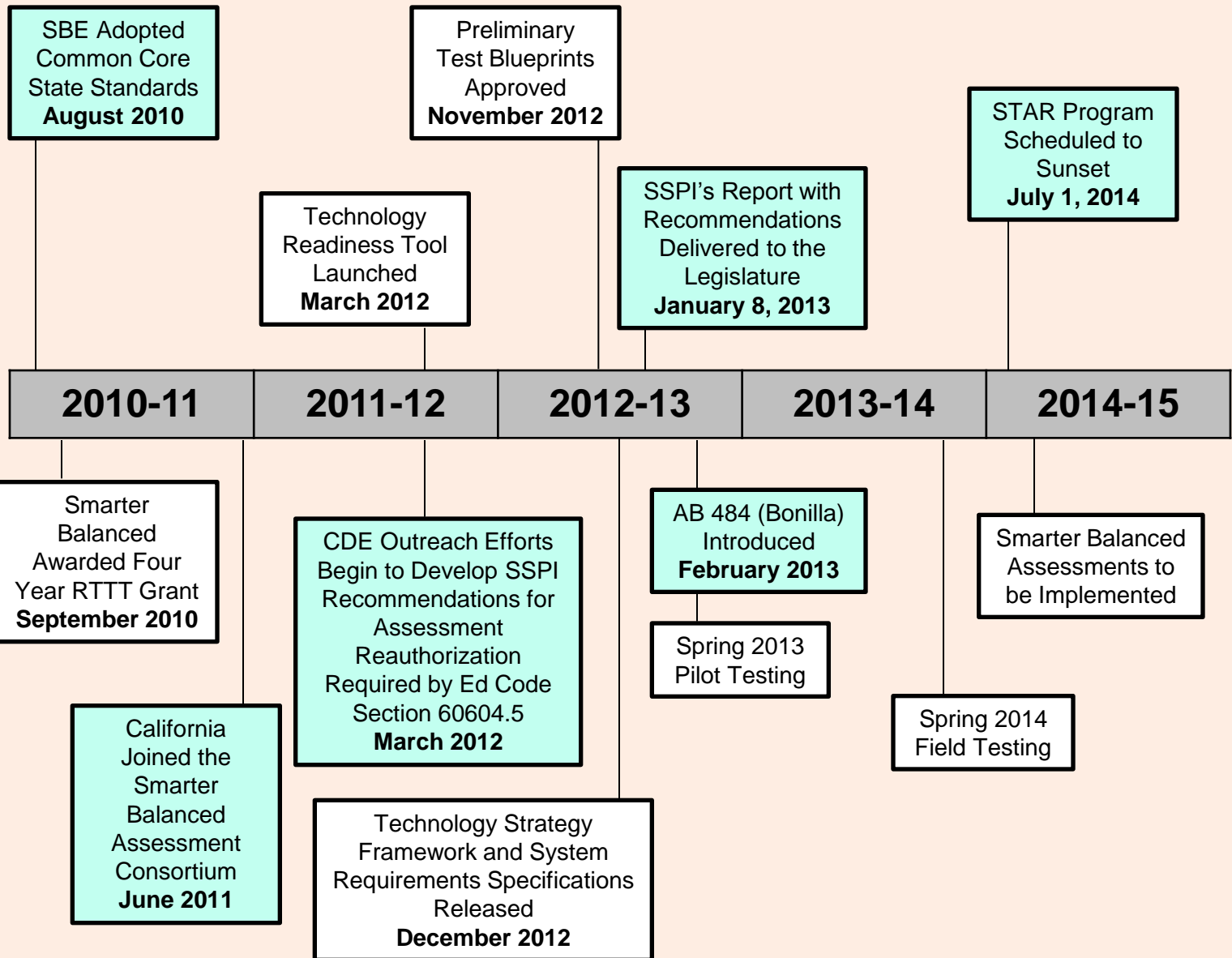
Overview

- Transition Milestones

- Smarter Balanced Overview

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Development Activities

- STAR Transition Activities

- CAHSEE and CELDT Transition Activities

Transition Milestones

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

SBE Adopted Common Core State Standards
August 2010

Preliminary Test Blueprints Approved
November 2012

STAR Program Scheduled to Sunset
July 1, 2014

SSPI's Report with Recommendations Delivered to the Legislature
January 8, 2013

Technology Readiness Tool Launched
March 2012

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15

Smarter Balanced Awarded Four Year RTTT Grant
September 2010

CDE Outreach Efforts Begin to Develop SSPI Recommendations for Assessment Reauthorization Required by Ed Code Section 60604.5
March 2012

AB 484 (Bonilla) Introduced
February 2013

Smarter Balanced Assessments to be Implemented

Spring 2013 Pilot Testing

Spring 2014 Field Testing

California Joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
June 2011

Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications Released
December 2012

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Overview

Smarter Balanced Assessment System
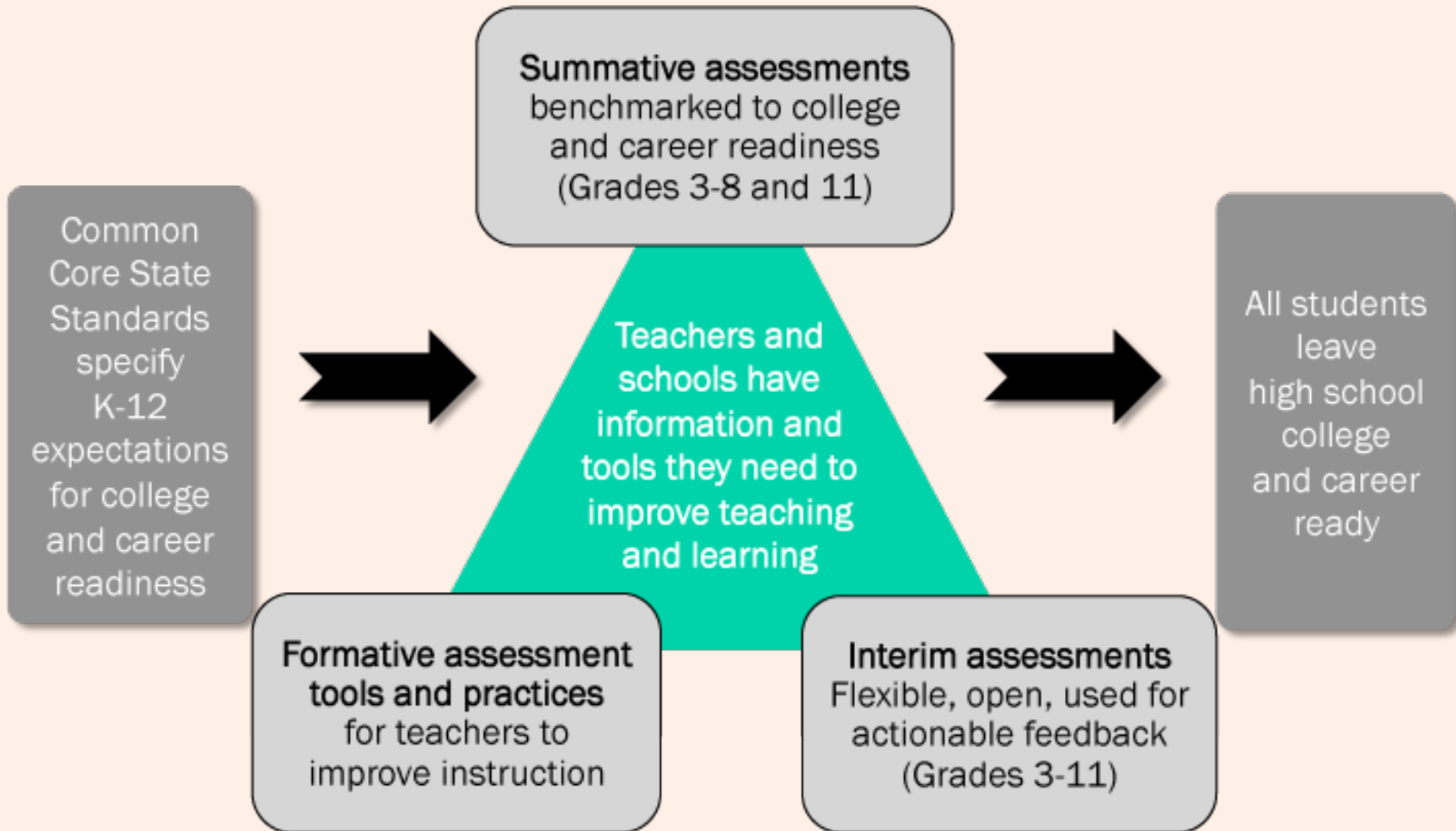
Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

Summative assessments benchmarked to college and career readiness (Grades 3-8 and 11)

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

Formative assessment tools and practices for teachers to improve instruction

Interim assessments Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback (Grades 3-11)

All students leave high school college and career ready

Smarter Balanced Member States
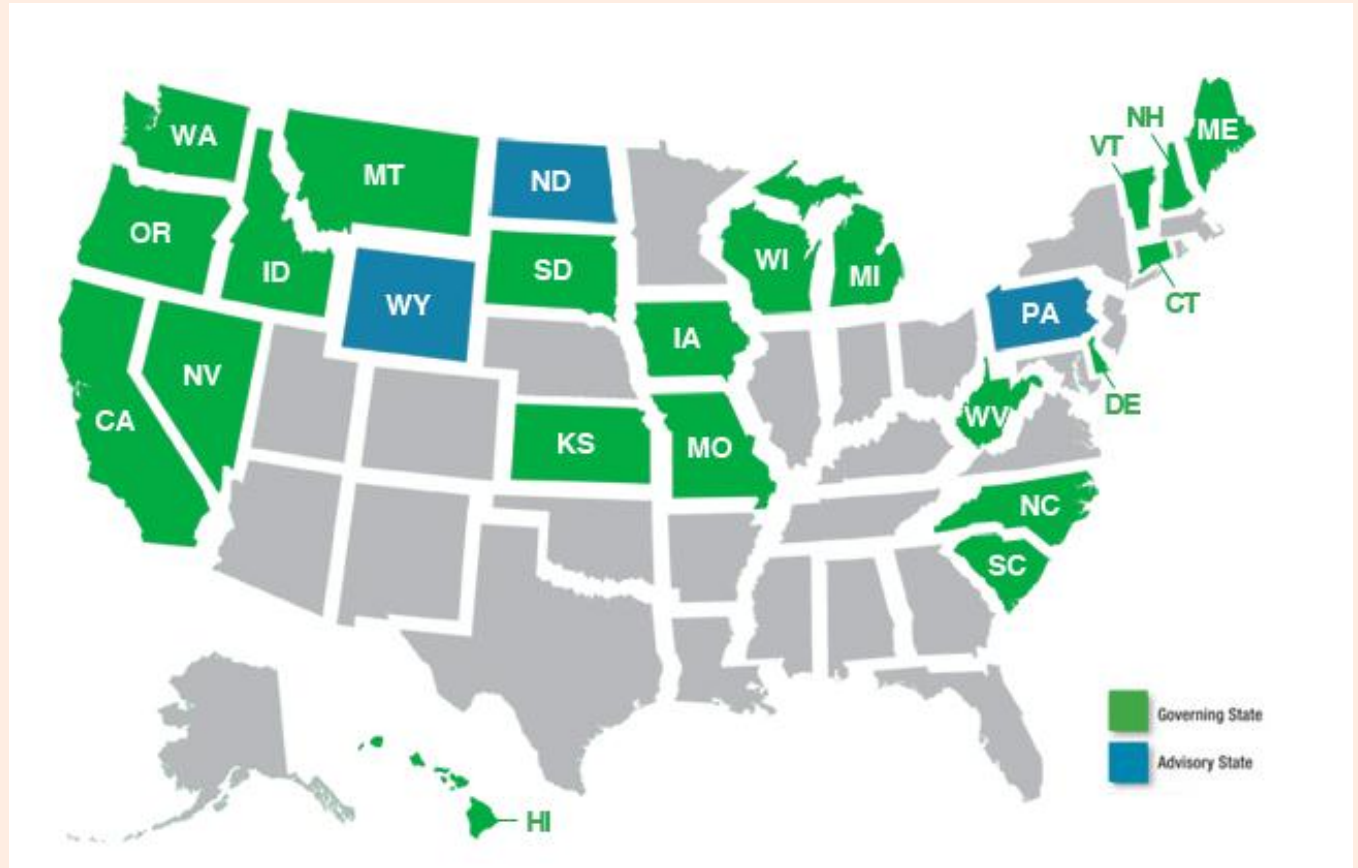
➢ 24 states educating approximately 20 million public K-12 students

State Governance and Participation

- Consortium led by state K-12 and higher education representatives. All major decisions are subject to state vote.

- Two California representatives on Smarter Balanced Executive Committee
  – Deb Sigman (Co-chair)
  – Beverly Young (Higher Education Representative)

- Expert advice from an array of standing advisory panels.

- Over 80 staff from member states and higher education institutions are involved in workgroups helping to design the system.

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Smarter Balanced Work Groups and California Members

1. **Item Development/Performance Tasks –** Linda Hooper, CDE Transition Office

2. **Validation and Psychometrics/Test Design** – Jamie Contreras, CDE Transition Office

3. **Formative Assessment Practices and Professional Learning/Transition to CCSS** – Laura Watson, CDE Transition Office

4. **Test Administration/Student Access** – Shobhana Rishi, CDE CELDT Office

5. **Technology Approach/Reporting** – Rodney Okamoto, CDE Web Services Office

Smarter Balanced Assessment Development Activities

Technology Readiness Tool

- Online tool that generates device and network "readiness reports" at the school level

- Reports show a general level of readiness:
  - 0% - 25% (red)
  - 26% - 50% (orange)
  - 51% - 75% (yellow)
  - 76% - 100% (green)

- CDE Smarter Balanced TRT Web page
  http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/sbac-itr-index.asp

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Preliminary Test Blueprints

- Approved by governing states in November 2012

- Provide clear test development specifications, including:
  - Content, number of items, item types, score points, and depth of knowledge for items

- Considered preliminary until after review of the data gathered from the pilot and field tests

- Available under the heading "Preliminary Test Blueprints" on the Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/ smarter-balanced-assessments/

Draft Initial Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Articulate the knowledge and skills expected of students at different levels of performance.

- Development began in October 2012 with a convening of educators from member states, and drafts were released for two public comment periods.

- Available on the Smarter Balanced Web site at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievementlevel-descriptors-and-college-readiness.

- Governing states are expected to vote on the initial ALDs in Spring 2013.

Smarter Balanced Spring 2013 Pilot Test

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- Two school samples:

  1) Scientific – select schools
  2) Volunteer – open to all schools

- There will be no scores or individual student data released to schools.

- Untimed but test times are expected to range from 2 to 3 hours of student testing time.

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Spring 2013 Pilot Test – Scientific Sample

- Test window: February 20–May 24, 2013

- Over 1,300 California schools have confirmed participation.

- Search for selected CA schools by county and district and view participation status on the CDE Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp. Select the "Spring 2013 Pilot Test" hyperlink.

- CDE is assisting participating schools by submitting required student data.

Spring 2013 Pilot Test – Volunteer Sample

- Test window: April 9 through May 10, 2013

- Approximately 1,800 California schools have registered

- Schools can volunteer by completing the online volunteer survey at:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SmarterBalancedPilot

- Deadline for registering to participate is March 27, 2013

Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

- Contract work began in March 2013

- Each Smarter Balanced member state to form a State Network of Educators to review proposed tools and practices for inclusion in the digital library

- **Upcoming opportunity for teacher involvement!** Recruitment of State Network of Educators expected to begin Spring 2013

- Digital library expected to be launched in Spring 2014

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STAR Transition Activities

Current Transition Efforts

- CCSS implementation
  - Develop curriculum frameworks
  - Adopt aligned instructional materials
  - Revise professional learning supports
  - Create new statewide assessments
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
- ELD standards and ELA/ELD frameworks
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)
  - Tier II state
  - students with significant cognitive disabilities.

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Current Transition Efforts

Current Standards and Assessments Transition Efforts

Reauthorization of California's Future Assessment System: California Law
(California *Education Code* Section 60604.5)

- Requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to consult with specific stakeholder groups in developing recommendations for the reauthorization of the statewide pupil assessment system that includes a plan for transitioning to a system of high-quality assessments.
- State Superintendent to report to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of both houses of the Legislature on or before November 1, 2012.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS):   Multistate

- Internationally benchmarked K–12 standards for English–language arts and mathematics.
- The CCSS System Implementation Plan is divided into phases, grounded in seven guiding strategies and encompasses all areas of our educational system.
- Adopted, with California additions, by the California State Board of Education in August 2010.
- The Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), formerly called the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission, is an advisory body to the State Board of Education on matters related to curriculum, instructional materials, and content standards. Some of the first activities of the IQC will be revising curriculum frameworks and evaluation criteria aligned with the CCSS with California additions (CA CCSS) for mathematics and English language arts.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC):   Multistate

- A student assessment system aligned with the CCSS in English–language arts and mathematics.
- Focuses on assessing students annually in grades three through eight and grade eleven in English–language arts and mathematics.
- California joined in June 2011.
- Operational in 2014–15 school year.

**National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) or
Aligned California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA):**

- The new alternate assessments will be aligned with the CCSS and assess students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- In September 2012, California joined NCSC as a Tier II member.
- Operational in 2014–15 school year.
- California has not yet determined whether it will administer the NCSC assessment or pursue CAPA alignment.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):   Multistate

- New NGSS standards for kindergarten through grade twelve (K–12).
- California *Education Code* Section 60605.85(a) requires the Superintendent to adopt, reject, or modify the science standards on or before November 30, 2013.
- California science standards will be based on the NGSS.

English-Language Development (ELD) Standards: California Law
(Assembly Bill 124)

- Requires an update, revision, and alignment of the English-language development (ELD) standards to the Core Standards by November 2012.
- The state's English-language proficiency assessments will be updated and revised to align to the new ELD Standards.

English-Language Development (ELD) Assessment:

- An assessment system that corresponds to the college- and career-ready Common Core State Standards.
- A diagnostic screener for initial identification and an annual assessment for measuring progress toward learning English will be developed.
- Ready for states to pilot test or use operationally in 2016–17.

Next Generation Science Standards

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Scheduled to be released by Achieve, Inc., in March 2013
- Submit to the State Board of Education in July 2013
- SBE to consider for adoption in November 2013
- California will have to determine participation in a multistate assessment
  - multiple measures for assessment
  - the grades and disciplines to be assessed

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Transition Efforts Underway

STAR Program Sunsets in July 2014

- Opportunity to design a new system of assessments

- Achieve SSPI's goal for statewide student assessment system that includes

  - A variety of assessment approaches

  - A variety of item types

- Primary purpose modeling and promoting high-quality teaching and student learning activities.

STAR Transition Activities

Computer-based Testing (CBT) Tryout

October 1–12, 2012

- Science in grades five and eight and high school biology

- assess participating LEAs' preparedness for online testing

- give students and schools a preview of what innovative items may look like

- transition from testing with traditional multiple-choice items to assessments that use technology enhanced items

STAR Transition Activities

CBT Tryout Results

		Districts	Schools	Examinees
Grade 6		84	108	9,169
Grade 9		40	43	5,758
Biology		53	56	5,083

- Expected and unexpected results, lessons learned, and recommendations for future CBT implementation in California

- Pre-test and post-test survey

- Better prepared for CBT than they thought

- "The difficulty of the content was the same, but taking the test was easier."

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STAR Transition Activities

Paperless aggregate reporting system

- streamline the reporting of the 2013 STAR results, reduce costs, and be more environmentally responsible

- CDE and LEA staff may opt to use a browser-based graphical user interface to manipulate and view test data online as soon as data are available through the use of a Data Manager for STAR

STAR Transition Activities

Paperless aggregate reporting results

- October 18, 2012 Focus Group
- 90-day use of the STAR Data Manager
- Feedback Survey:
  - refinement of the terms used in the interface
  - more longitudinal reporting features
  - Allow users to create and save ad hoc queries
  - ability to aggregate performance levels across years
  - Create a preloaded query

STAR Transition Activities

Expedite the reporting of STAR results

- use of pre-equated forms

- LEAs receive student-level CST scores as part of a secure electronic file

- two weeks after they return testing materials to the testing contractor for scoring

- preliminary scores for individual students in an electronic format
  - will not include state-, county-, or district-level aggregate reports or any paper reports.

STAR Transition Activities

Familiarize California schools and LEAs with the CCSS and their similarities to the California state content standards

- identify California content standards that align with the CCSS for K–12 education

- analyze STAR item bank to identify test questions that align with the CCSS

- analyze released test questions for possible alignment with the CCSS and provide on the STAR Sample Question Web site

CAHSEE and CELDT Transition Activities

CAHSEE Transition Activities

- The CAHSEE administration contractor will map existing operational test items to the CCSS wherever possible.

- Will consider standard alignment, content strength, item difficulty, and statistical properties.

- Aligned items will receive a CCSS code in addition to its existing California content standard code.

- Item review panels will evaluate and validate the proposed alignments to the CCSS.

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CELDT Transition Activities

- The CDE plans to replace the CELDT with the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) system by 2015–16.

- The ELPAC will be developed to be aligned to the 2012 English Language Development (ELD) Standards. The CELDT was based on the 1999 ELD Standards.

- If additional funding is approved, the ELPAC will include an initial (diagnostic) screener.

- The annual summative test will be moved to the spring with a specified assessment window.

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

For Further Information

Join the CDE Smarter Balanced listserv by sending a blank e-mail to:
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Technology Readiness Coordinator
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Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Web Site
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/

CDE Smarter Balanced Web Page
http://www.cde.ca.gov/sbac/

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